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JULY TALK: GOLD AND THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD AT CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

South Africa's entry at the Chelsea Flower Show won not only gold this year, but also the Award for the President of the Royal Horticultural Society's favourite exhibit! Congratulations to designers David Davidson and Ray Hudson and their team.

As is now customary, David will tell us all about the events that led to the exciting news. The exhibit's theme was "Windows on Biodiversity" and featured plants from SA's ten National Botanical Gardens.

NUWEJAARS WETLAND AREA VISIT

Not far from the picturesque town of Elim is a new conservation model for South Africa – the Nuwejaars Wetland Special Management Area. Twenty five landowners have committed their private land, bordering on the Agulhas National Park, to conservation and sustainable farming.

The region is home to many threatened bird species – and has been included as one of BirdLife South Africa's Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. Birds found here include the Hottentot Buttonquail, Blue Crane, Black Harrier, Secretarybird, Denham's Bustard, Southern Black Korhaan, Agulhas Long-billed Lark and many, many more.

We are delighted to offer our members a specially designed morning visit to the wetlands. We will learn about the management of the land and go 'on safari' to see the birds, as well as hartebeest, buffalo and bontebok.

We recommend lunch afterwards at one of the nearby wine farms and a visit to historic Elim. Further information will be supplied on booking. Contact Anina 083 242 3295 or anina.wcc@gmail.com

WHALE COAST TECHNOLOGIES LAUNCH

We are launching a new WCC entity, Whale Coast Technologies (WCT) during August.



For many years WCC has been raising awareness of the unsustainability of the typical western lifestyle. The earth's resources are finite and we cannot continue life as usual. World population is growing at record pace, as is the desire for more affluent lifestyles.

We have established Whale Coast Technologies (WCT) that will supply technologies to help us to use fewer resources without sacrificing comfort. We will add value by providing expert advice on the best technologies for your particular needs. WCT will also be the point of sales for cigarette butt bins, doggy doo bag dispensers, worm bins, etc.

Moreover, WCT will offer a variety of environmental consulting services. Call Rob Fryer on 028 316 2527 or Email: wcc.greenhouse@gmail.com

WCC COMMENTED ON BYPASS EIR

The draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed construction of a road to bypass the Hermanus CBD has been published for comment. The chosen route is through a portion of the Fernkloof Nature Reserve and a section of the wetland on the

Hermanus Golf Course. It will save between 1.8 and 2.8 minutes of driving time from east to west of the CBD compared to existing roads. The Province has budgeted R180 million over the next 2 years for the 3 km bypass.

When a bypass road through Fernkloof all the way from Gateway to the end of Voëlklip was first mooted about 40 years ago, it was fiercely rejected by Hermanus residents. Since then new environmental laws have been promulgated that give great protection to biodiversity. In addition the southern boundary of the reserve has now been fixed at the urban edge i.e. Mountain Drive.

We thus continue to reject any development that encroaches on the boundaries of Fernkloof. The present bypass proposal is not aligned with provincial government policy and stated strategy, or with the DA's environmental policy. The proposal assigns no value to the land in Fernkloof, which makes it the "cheaper option" to alternative routes. WCC contends that, on the contrary, protected land has immense value in terms of biodiversity and human wellbeing.



The Whale Coast Conservation position summary on the proposed bypass can be read [here](#).

It is vitally important that we keep raising our concerns at every stage of the public participation process. Comments you made previously are not carried forward in the process.

Monday 3 July is the last day for comments. You can express your support for the WCC position on the draft EIR by following [this link](#) and simply filling in your name and email address and hit the send button.

LAERSKOOL GANSBAAI EXPO

During June we presented our expo on healthy eating and food gardening at Laerskool Gansbaai, one of the schools sponsored on WCC's Youth Environment Programme (YEP) by AVI Community Development Trust.



Groups of 41 Grade 3s, 52 Grade 2s, 33 Grade 1s and 30 Grade Rs came to the expo where they visited 5 interactive exhibits. They learned all about a healthy diet, with lots of different coloured fruit and vegetables, what sorts of snacks to avoid and why, and how to grow their own vegetables at home.

PROGRESS ON SAVING CHAMELEONS

We are still anxiously waiting to receive the necessary permits to relocate the chameleons. In the meantime they are not under immediate threat, and we are keeping an eye on developments. Instead, enjoy this beautiful photograph from Brent Abrahams via Fernkloof Indigenous Nursery - and spot the chameleon.



WINNERS OF THE JUNE MEAL VOUCHERS

At the end of May we announced a competition, "Voting with a Butt", generously sponsored by three leading Hermanus restaurants – La Pentola, LB Seafood Bistro on the Bay and Burgundy.

And the winners of the June competition are (drumroll):



Bradley Oosthuizen from Mt Pleasant



Jane-Ann Day



And Tarynne aka "Ciggie" from SRC (with a delighted Morgan Hendricks).

Incidentally, none of the winners are smokers, but they gingerly picked up 'stompies' discarded by smokers. Congratulations for helping to care for our environment.

New competition for July

We have a new, simpler competition for you to win one of the three R500 meal vouchers for July, Answer this simple question: **Are cigarette butts biodegradable?** Send your answer YES or NO, together with your name and contact details, by any electronic means (email, SMS, WhatsApp) to anina.wcc@gmail.com, or 083 242 3295. The lucky draw will be at the end of July for 3 more wonderful meal vouchers. We thank Chef Shane of La Pentola, Chef Paul of LB Seafood Bistro and Chef Rudolf of Burgundy restaurants.

CONGRATULATIONS, SHERAINE

After working long and hard on her PHD proposal, Sheraine submitted it in May to the Higher Degrees Committee at Rhodes University for approval. She received the news early in June that not only was it approved but the proposal sailed through the committee meeting without a hitch and, much to Sheraine's joy, needed no revision or correction. We are all delighted at the good news and congratulations are very much in order.

Sheraine's research topic is "Ethics orientated expansive learning for social ecological transformation: the case of a river improvement project". A comment from the Committee reads: "A very well written proposal. Well conceptualised and theorised. The proposal was very coherent and should be included in our collection of model proposals".



The next phase of the Stanford Mill Stream Project (the subject of her PhD) has received funding from the Table Mountain Fund.

TABLE MOUNTAIN FUND

Talking of which, WCC has won a contract as a TMF Small Grant Facility. These small grants aim to support the growth and development of new entrants into the conservation sector. With grants less than R30 000, TMF supports community level conservation. WCC will identify, mentor and support the emergence and long-term success of environmental entrepreneurs.

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Johan
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Written by Anina Lee